

Agilent Ref: 10010016-1
United States Application Serial No. 09/772,723

Amendments

In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating an addressable array of biopolymers on a substrate, comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of individual vessels each containing a biopolymer wherein said plurality is provided in a defined format;

(b) assigning a unique format identifier to each member of said plurality;

(c) [[a]] obtaining the biopolymers from [[a]] the plurality of individual identified vessels;

(d) [[(b)]] depositing the biopolymers onto different regions of the substrate so as to fabricate the array;

(e) [[(c)]] saving in a memory a map of the identity of the vessels to the corresponding regions of the substrate onto which the biopolymers from respective vessels are deposited, in association with a map identifier, wherein said map of the identity of the vessels comprises an individual identity a unique format identifier of each vessel of said plurality;

(f) [[(d)]] applying the map identifier to the substrate or a housing carrying the substrate;

(g) [[(e)]] shipping the fabricated array with applied map identifier to a remote location.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the biopolymers are polynucleotides.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the biopolymers are DNA.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the memory is a database, the method additionally comprising obtaining the identity map from the

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memory and communicating the identity map to a remote location in response to receiving a communication of the map identifier from the remote location.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the memory comprises a portable storage medium, the method additionally comprising shipping the portable storage medium to a remote location.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5 wherein the portable storage medium is shipped to the same remote location as the array.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 4 additionally comprising applying a communication address to the substrate or a housing carrying the substrate, which communication address identifies a remote location from which the identity map will be communicated in response to a received communication of the associated map identifier.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of generating, at a central fabrication station, addressable arrays of biopolymers on multiple substrates, comprising:

(a) providing a plurality of individual vessels in a defined format each containing a set of biopolymers from multiple remote locations;

(b) assigning a unique format Identifier to each member of said plurality;

(c) [[a]] receiving from each of multiple remote locations, [[a]] the set of biopolymers in [[a]] the plurality of individual identified vessels;

(d) [[[b)]] for each received biopolymer set, depositing biopolymers obtained from the set onto different regions of the substrate so as to fabricate an array;

(e) [[(c)]] saving in a memory a map of the identity of the vessels of each set to the corresponding regions of the substrate onto which the biopolymers from respective vessels of the set are deposited, in association with a map identifier, wherein said map of the identity of the vessels comprises ~~an individual identity~~ a unique format identifier of each vessel of said plurality;

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(f) [(d)] applying the map identifier to the corresponding substrate or a housing carrying the corresponding substrate; and

(g) [(e)] shipping each of the fabricated arrays with applied map identifier to one or more of the remote stations.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the biopolymers are polynucleotides.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein the biopolymers are DNA.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the memory is a database, the method additionally comprising obtaining identity maps from the memory and communicating the identity maps to a remote location in response to receiving a communication of associated map identifiers from remote locations.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein for each of multiple arrays the corresponding identity map and associated identifier are saved on a memory comprising a portable computer readable storage medium, the method additionally comprising shipping the portable storage mediums to multiple remote locations.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein each of the portable storage mediums are shipped with the corresponding fabricated array to the same remote location from which the set of biopolymers used in fabricating that array was received.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 8 additionally comprising applying a same communication address to each of the substrates or housings carrying the substrates, which communication address identifies a remote location from which each identity map will be communicated in response to a received communication of the associated map identifier.

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Claims 15 to 44 (Cancelled).

45. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1, wherein said plurality of individual identified vessels is in a format of a tray with multiple wells.

46. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein said multiple wells are arranged in said tray in rows and columns.

47. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said **[[said]]** individual identity of each vessel is an identifier in the format of: tray number, column number **[[,]]** and row number.

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 46, wherein said **[[said]]** individual identity of each vessel is an identifier assigned to each vessel relative to a reference mark.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said plurality of individual identified vessels is in a format of a tray with multiple wells.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 49, wherein said multiple wells are arranged in said tray in rows and columns.

51. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 50, wherein said **[[said]]** individual identity of each vessel is an identifier in the format of: tray number, column number **[[,]]** and row number.

52. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 50, wherein said **[[said]]** individual identity of each vessel is an identifier assigned to each vessel relative to a reference mark.

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53. (New) The method according to Claim 1, said method additionally comprising receiving said array and map identifier and using said map identifier to identify vessels corresponding to regions of the array.

54. (New) A method of generating an addressable array of biopolymers on a substrate, comprising:

(a) obtaining the biopolymers from a plurality of individual identified vessels, wherein each of said vessels is marked with a unique identifier that is not composition information from that vessel;

(b) depositing the biopolymers onto different regions of the substrate so as to fabricate the array;

(c) saving in a memory a map of the identity of the vessels to the corresponding regions of the substrate onto which the biopolymers from respective vessels are deposited, in association with a map identifier, wherein said map of the identity of the vessels comprises an individual identity of each vessel of said plurality;

(d) applying the map identifier to the substrate or a housing carrying the substrate;

(e) shipping the fabricated array with applied map identifier to a remote location.